

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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72

ACTION NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 SS-15 COME-00

PRS-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 EB-07 /076 W

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P 281651Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6272

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1550

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS TECH ENRG CA

SUBJ NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT ON BOILING  
WATER REACTORS

REF STATE 097118

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PER REFTEL, CONCERNED AECB AND AECL  
OFFICIALS NOTIFIED APRIL 26. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. CANADIAN OFFICIALS WERE ESPECIALLY  
APPRECIATIVE FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING  
REACTIONS AND COMMENTS IN "STRICTEST CONFIDENCE":

A. THEY NOTED FOR INFORMATION OF NRC THAT GENTILLY I (A BWR)  
HAS ENCOUNTERED VARIOUS FLOW INDUCED VIBRATION PROBLEMS  
SIMILAR IN NATURE TO THAT DESCRIBED IN REFTEL THROUGHOUT ITS  
OPERATING HISTORY. THESE PROBLEMS HAVE RANGED FROM A SEVERITY  
CONSIDERED INSIGNIFICANT TO ONES SEVERE ENOUGH TO HAVE REQUIRED  
REACTOR SHUTDOWN AND SOME MINOR MODIFICATIONS. AT LEAST  
SOME RESPONSIBLE CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY  
CONCERNED BY THE POTENTIAL INTERACTION BETWEEN VIBRATIONALLY  
INTRODUCED PROBLEMS IN THE CORE AND INHERENT DELICATE CONTROL  
FACTORS IN BWR'S.

B. TIMING OF U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT UNFORTUNATE (ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZED  
TO BE UNAVOIDABLE) FROM CANADIAN POINT OF VIEW. AS DEPT AND NRC  
AWARE, CANADA HAS EXPERIENCED TO DATE REMARKABLY LITTLE PUBLIC  
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CONCERN OVER THE SITING OF NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES. THIS HAS

GENERALLY BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO CAREFUL PUBLIC RELATIONS ATTENTION PRINCIPALLY BY ONTARIO HYDRO, BUT ALSO AECL. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS HONEYMOON WITH THE PUBLIC COULD COME TO AN END SHORTLY AS A RESULT OF NEW BRUNSWICK HYDRO'S "MISMANAGEMENT." IT APPEARS THAT BOTH ONTARIO HYDRO AND AECL OFFERED ASSISTANCE SOME MONTHS AGO, BEFORE THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A FACILITY WOULD BE BUILT IN NEW BRUNSWICK, TO NEW BRUNSWICK HYDRO. THEY OFFERED TO HELP LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION CONCERNING THE "REAL DANGERS AND BENEFITS" OF NUCLEAR POWER. NEW BRUNSWICK HYDRO REJECTED THIS ASSISTANCE AND TRIED TO GO IT ALONE WITH INEXPERIENCED PERSONNEL. THE RESULTS WERE PREDICTABLE. OTTAWA OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW BRUNSWICK PREMIER HAS FINALLY INTERVENED IN WHAT PUBLIC GROUPS CONSIDER AN UNACCEPTABLY ARBITRARY MANNER AND THEY KNOW THESE GROUPS ARE AGITATING IN OTTAWA FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT UNLESS AND UNTIL THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE MET. THE FACT THAT THE NEW BRUNSWICK FACILITY WOULD BE A PWR RATHER THAN A BWR IS NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY TO AFFECT USE BY ENTHUSIASTS OF THE NRC ANNOUNCEMENT TO POINT UP THE "EXTREME DANGERS OF NUCLEAR POWER." END CONFIDENTIAL.

JOHNSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D750148-1021  
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**To:** STATE  
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